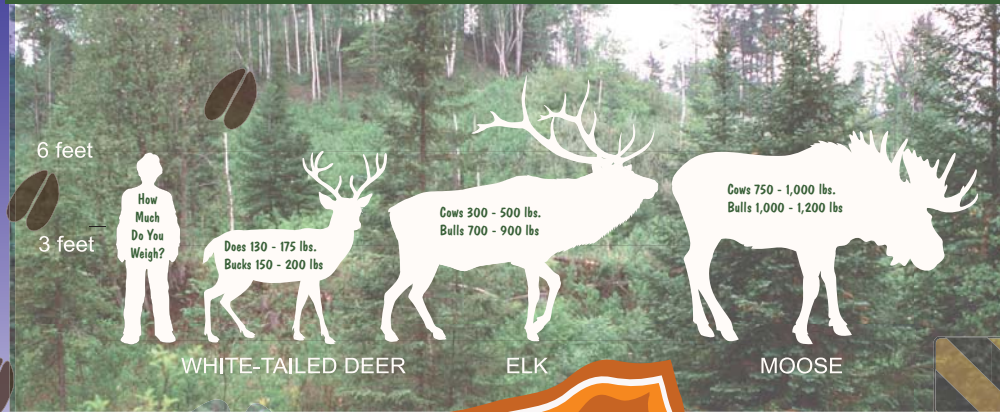


MICHIGAN'S Sizeable Cervids



OH DEER!

One Michigan buck tipped the scales at 340 pounds!

Factoid

A mature Michigan moose will eat between 40 and 60 pounds of plant material per day. That's a lot of twigs!!

I am NOT a Horn

Michigan cervids all have antlers, not horns. Antlers fall off every year again the following spring on bucks and bulls (males only). Horns found on sheep and goats and a few other critters, are more permanent. They don't ever fall off but just keep growing.



Sometimes antlers become entangled and the animals die.

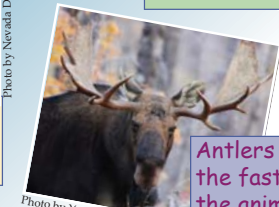


Photo by Yasuto Sato, Okayama City, Japan

On a very rare occasion, a doe will actually grow antlers!

Antlers are considered one of the fastest growing tissues in the animal kingdom.

You may not always see a deer, elk or moose but you may see their "sign." One sign is a track. Deer family hoof prints are pretty easily identified. They just get bigger from deer to elk to moose. The tracks on this page are actual size!



SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

THE SCOOP ON THE POOP

White-tailed Deer Scat or Chocolate-Covered Raisins?

Elk Scat or Malted Milk Balls?

Moose Scat or Chocolate-Covered Brazil Nuts?

Another sign of a cervid is what they leave behind. scat, droppings, feces.poop! Compare these actual cervid pellets to similar-looking chocolate candy! Better check that candy wrapper for ingredients!



It's the Real Thing! Deer Scat

Photo by DNR, Dave Kenyon



THE RUB
During the mating season, deer "rub" their antlers on trees to shed the velvet covering and leave their scent which will mark their territory.



Here's another sign. Do you know what this one means? It's the Watchable Wildlife symbol. You can find it on the DNR Website: www.michigan.gov/dnr

Can you Find the real deer tracks in this photo?

Go outside in your yard, a playground or the woods and see how many animal tracks you can find. Then identify them!

Who do these tracks belong to?



Answers on page 4

